

Message Text

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TO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 223421

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS 1

TAGS:PFOR, CA, EEC, UK

SUBJECT:EC/CANADIAN RELATIONS

1. DURING A CALL ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN ON
OCTOBER 7, UK DCM RICHARD SYKES BROUGHT UP QUESTION OF
EC/CANADIAN RELATIONS. SYKES NOTED THAT CANADIANS HAD
VOICED A DESIRE FOR SOME FORMAL LINK WITH THE COMMUNITY
LAST YEAR AND THAT, WITH THE IMPENDING VISIT TO BRUSSELS
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BY PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU (OCTOBER 23-25), THE ISSUE HAD
ONCE AGAIN COME TO THE FORE. THE COMMUNITY, SYKES SAID,

HAD NO CLEAR IDEA OF JUST WHAT THE CANADIANS WANTED AND DIDN'T THINK THE CANADIANS KNEW EITHER. THE BRITISH, ACCORDING TO SYKES, WERE CONCERNED OVER POSSIBLE US REACTION TO EC/CANADIAN CONTACTS AND WANTED TO KNOW IF WE WOULD HAVE POLITICAL OBJECTIONS OR WOULD WE BE CONCERNED ONLY OVER ECONOMIC ISSUES. IN RESPONSE TO HARTMAN'S QUESTION AS TO THE FORM OF THE ASSOCIATION; E.G., WHETHER CONSULTATIVE MACHINERY OR A FORM OF TRADE AGREEMENT WOULD BE INVOLVED, SYKES SAID THE UK POSITION WAS THAT THE TALKS WITH TRUDEAU WOULD HAVE TO TAKE PLACE WITHOUT PRECONCEPTIONS AS TO THE "FORM OR CONTENT" OF THE EC/CANADIAN LINK. THE BRITISH UNDERSTOOD CANADIAN DESIRES TO STRENGTHEN EXISTING LINKS BUT COULD NOT ACCEPT AN ARRANGEMENT WHICH DID NOT TAKE INTO ACCOUNT EXISTING COMMITMENTS TO OTHERS, PARTICULARLY TO THE AMERICANS.

2. HARTMAN ANSWERED THAT WE, TOO, WERE NOT CLEAR ON JUST WHAT THE CANADIANS ENVISAGED. OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THEM TO DATE HAD NOT FULLY CLARIFIED THE SITUATION. THE US WOULD HAVE NO POLITICAL OBJECTION TO THE EC/CANADIAN DISCUSSIONS ON THE MATTER, BUT HARTMAN EMPHASIZED THAT WE ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE ECONOMIC CONTENT OF THE ARRANGEMENT WHICH MIGHT BE CONCLUDED. WE FEEL THAT ANY FORM OF ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT WOULD ENCOURAGE FURTHER BILATERALISM AT A TIME WHEN SO MANY OF OUR COMMON PROBLEMS REQUIRE MULTILATERAL EFFORTS FOR SOLUTION. WE ARE ESPECIALLY CONCERNED OVER THE POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT FOR EXISTING INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS IN THE GATT AND OECD. WE SAW NO REASON FOR ANY PROVISION BEYOND MFN TREATMENT. HARTMAN CLOSED BY INDICATING THAT HE EXPECTED OUR DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CANADIANS TO CONTINUE, BUT THAT THEY HAD NOT YET REACHED THE "SECOND STAGE" OF SPECIFICS. INGERSOLL

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